

for the great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde-park might eventually have been appropriated to the purposes of a National Gallery. The evidence before the committee generally recommended a movement westward; and so far the idea appeared to have a reasonable feature; but the decided opposition to occupy Hyde-park with any permanent building has entirely abrogated any such application of the industrial edifice of 1851.

We have now to look for a whereabouts westward, and Kensington Palace presents itself. Marlborough House, Pall-mall, is destined by the Crown for the residence of the Prince of Wales. The Vernon Gallery will have therefore but a limited term of occupancy, and, besides, this situation is now considered, according to the evidence, to be affected by the similar atmospheric destructiveness to pictures, so ripe at Charing Cross. Pray God the youthful Prince's lungs may not suffer in such a malignant malaria!

Kensington Palace offers ready accommodation for three times the number of pictures we now possess belonging to the nation; and, in these stinting times, could be fitted for their reception at a very trifling cost to the public exchequer. The south front, facing the dial, contains on the upper floor a suite of admirably-proportioned rooms, occupying eleven windows of this facade. There are no attics or rooms above, and top-lights could be constructed with the greatest facility. They are now empty of furniture, containing only the Wallerstein collection of antique Byzantine, German, and Flemish pictures. A similar range of fine rooms are connected with this, forming the principal eastern front, and these apartments also are convertible into picture galleries by having no impediment to the construction of skylights by any rooms above them. Immediately behind this eastern front is a magnificent saloon called the Octagon Room, rising forty feet in height within, which would form a superb hall for large pictures, rivaling in proportion the famous great hall of the Louvre. This apartment may be distinguished, when viewed from the gardens, by the roof rising to an apex over the other buildings, and crowned on the summit by a stone sphere. Standing back from this eastern front, and continuing northwards, is another long range of fine apartments, presenting thirteen windows in its length, called the Queen's Gallery. This part is also uninhabited, and has been so since the demise of the Princess Sophia. Over this suite there are small, low attics, which could easily be removed, and converted into picture galleries whenever our national collection should enlarge to its requirement. This wing of the palace appears, from the monogram over the door at the extreme end, to have been built in the reign of William and Mary, and the pediment of the door is adorned with carving of flowers and fruit in high relief, and with some portions wholly detached: it has every quality worthy of Grinlin Gibbons, by whom it was probably executed, although now exposed, unappreciated, to the rudeness of the weather.

The only use made of any apartments among this vast suite of rooms, besides the southern front, is to contain some old furniture, and a variety of lumber removed from other royal abodes. A great quantity of it is so utterly tasteless and inappropriate to modern regal service, that it might as well be sold out of the way, and the money applied usefully. The portion that is good, useful, or ornamental, might safely be stowed in the large empty green-house adjacent, and thus free these fine apartments for a great and noble purpose. There are no inhabitants at all now living in the before-described part of Kensington Palace but the persons in care; and they could be easily located in the other divisions, among the families which, like at Hampton Court, have obtained a royal grant to reside therein. The isolation of a national gallery in this building from any danger of fire arising from the residents in the other part, could, from the distribution of the various buildings, be effected with the most perfect security.

No words need be employed to expatiate on the delightful situation of Kensington Palace, and its magnificent gardens, as an attraction to visitors of every degree. The popularity of Hampton Court to the public, notwithstanding its distance, is an ample proof of the general

feeling for rational and intellectual enjoyment, when combined with healthful recreation.

IDLER IN LONDON.

MEMS. IN THE PROVINCES.

SOME additions and alterations are about to be made at the Bedford Lunatic Asylum, on plans prepared by Mr. T. Smith, the county surveyor. Funds for the improvement of Church-street, Romsey, are being rapidly collected. Schools and residence are to be built west of the churchyard, at a cost of about 1,600*l.* already raised. New school-houses are about to be erected at Inkberrow, Worcestershire, on plans furnished by Mr. A. E. Perkins, of College-yard, Worcester, architect. The foundation stone of the New Tabernacle, Kingswood Hill, Bristol, was laid on Tuesday in last week. The chapel will be in the early English style, of Pennant stone, with Bath stone dressings. It will be divided into nave and side aisles, seats open. The design is by Mr. H. Masters, architect. The building will be 87½ feet within the walls, and 56 feet wide. The length of side aisles is 36 feet 6 in.; width of nave 26 feet; width of aisles 12 feet; total width, clear of walls, 50 feet. There will be piers and arches to carry clerestory windows flanking the nave. In front are two campaniles, set diagonally, available for access to children's gallery, with open porch between. The front is lighted by a triplet window. The roof is to be open timbered, and stained as the pews are; the walls are to be paved with tiles; the expense, including the boundary walls, will be, it is said, under 2,000*l.* It will accommodate about 1,300. Lutton Church, near Leominster, is about to be pulled down, and rebuilt on plans by Mr. Cranston, of Hereford, architect. The public baths at Warrington were opened on Saturday week to the public, at one penny each; Mondays and Saturdays to be thus devoted in the meantime to the public, and the other days in the week to the subscribers. On Thursday week, according to a Liverpool paper, four eminent contractors sent in estimates to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the construction of the sea wall of the great float in the Birkenhead Docks. There are now upwards of a thousand men employed in the various portions of this work. A national school with dwelling is about to be erected at Bolatstone, near Sheffield, on plans by Messrs. Harrison, of Sheffield, architects, &c.

Punch depicts the police luxuriating idly in the parks on Sundays, and the swell-mobility doing what they like with other people's own on the first day of the week, as a day made "sacred to idleness," in caricature of the *sermon*, as the type of creative rest,—but the police are likely, in sober earnest, to have a somewhat heavy addition to their Sundays' surveillance, if the example of the Sheffield gas stokers and cokers prove to be contagious. They complain, in the local *Times*, that their only exactive Sunday customers are the street lamps, the church lamps, and the lamps of those other temples devoted to less spiritual observances,—that the gas used on Sunday must be made on Sunday and attended to on Sunday,—and that they cannot see why they should be compelled to labour on behalf of these three "old lights," any more than the letter-carriers on behalf of the social, moral, and intellectual light of the community, on the day of days. They, therefore, virtually threaten to place the streets in darkness, and the churches also, as well as the gin temples, on the evenings of that day. Public baths are to be erected at Heywood, Bury, as a tribute of respect to the late Sir R. Peel, and to be hence called the Peel Baths. Many a village and town might be thus perhaps readily supplied with such useful establishments at the present moment. At Heywood they even calculate on collecting a sufficient sum for public parks and pleasure-grounds for the working classes. A considerable portion of a churchyard wall at Mark-lane, Leeds, gave way and fell on Tuesday in last week. Another portion had been shortly before rebuilt with palisades. Seventy-five houses, according to the Leeds *Intelligencer*, are about to be built there on the Leathby road Pottery Estate, on plans by Mr. Joseph Thompson, of Leeds, architect. The Streets Committee of the Leeds Town Council on Monday week accepted the lowest

tender of the thirty-seven sent in for making a large main trunk sewer, and several miles of branches. The works include about 15½ miles of sewerage, with sluice or flood gates, and occupation bridge; also two large cast-iron culverts under the river Aire. Messrs. Warren and Denroche, of Cardiff, South Wales, are to execute the whole for 34,650*l.* The highest tender was 97,800*l.* and the majority ranged between 40,000*l.* and 50,000*l.* Messrs. Warren and Denroche, it is said, have executed railway works in South Wales, and were connected with the contractors for the docks at Birkenhead. The 15½ miles included in the contracts just let are but a portion of the sewerage contemplated in the scheme of Mr. Leather (estimated to cost 60,000*l.*) for draining the three townships of Leeds, Hunslet, and Holbeck. The Darlington Gas and Water Company have announced a reduction in the price of gas from 6*s.* to 5*s.* per thousand feet. A few years ago the price was 10*s.*—A police station is about to be erected at Welton, East-Riding, on designs by Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson, of Kirkcaldy, Bradford, architects. A school and master's house are to be built at Upminster, Essex; architects, Messrs. Kendall and Pope. The following are the tenders:—

	School and House.	Walls.	Ac.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.	
Dowsett, Good Master ..	800	69	869	
Hammond, Great Warley	796	70	866	
Curran, Stratford	744	84	828	
Piper, London	693	85	778	
Holmes, East Ham (accepted)	580	60	640	

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

It is much to be regretted that of the six principal bridges which cross the Thames in London, four of them—viz., London-bridge, Southwark-bridge, Westminster, and Blackfriars—should all have exhibited symptoms of settlement and insecurity: with regard to the last of these, namely, Blackfriars, if great precautions are not taken, the time is not far distant when the whole fabric will be precipitated into the river without giving hardly a minute's notice; indeed, the wonder is that it had not long before, notwithstanding the large sum expended lately upon its renovation.

With our present improved knowledge of bridge-building, let us suppose that a new bridge be constructed at Westminster, consisting of five openings, each about 160 feet wide, the piers of granite or some other equally durable stone, the arches of well-seasoned timber covered externally with ornamental cast iron of suitable Gothic design, and well painted:—such a structure might be made of great beauty of design, and of sufficient durability to last for centuries, with a little ordinary repair: its appearance would far exceed anything of the kind in the metropolis, and its entire construction might be effected for about 200,000*l.* and completed in three years, while the stone of the present bridge would simply repay the expense of the temporary one, which would be requisite while the new bridge is building.

That a bridge of this description would be much cheaper and lighter than one built entirely of stone, and much safer and more durable than a suspension bridge, there can be no doubt; and if a plan similar to the one here suggested were adopted, it would effect considerable saving of the public money, and adorn London with a novel and beautiful structure.

E. E. M.

CALIFORNIAN QUARTZ FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—A block of gold-bearing quartz has been procured, at the expense of the State of California, to be contributed in the erection of the proposed monument at the seat of general government. Each of the States is to be represented by a block of stone from native hills. The Californian block is from the Mariposa diggings, near Fresno's mines, and weighs about 126 lbs. In shape it is irregular, approaching a square, its sides varying from 18 to 20 inches in length. It averages in thickness 9 inches—across its surface diagonally it is 21 inches by measurement. Very little gold is perceptible to the naked eye, but it is estimated to contain about eighty dollars' worth.